



# U P D A T E

## St. Lucie County

**March 15, 2004**

**A Monthly Update of  
Current Events and  
Happenings within  
St. Lucie County**

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This update is published monthly by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners' Public Information Office.  
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### **Board of County Commission Meeting Changes & Special Meetings Scheduled**

- The March 23, 2004 Board of County Commissioners meeting is canceled due to lack of quorum.
- The April 6, 2004 Board of County Commissioners meeting will be changed to 6:00 p.m.
- The April 20, 2004 Board of County Commissioners meeting will be changed to 6:00 p.m.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a special meeting on March 17, 2004 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers for the North County Charrette Report.
- A Public Hearing will be held on April 7, 2004 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the St. Lucie County Commission Chambers hosted by HNTB, the Airport Consultant. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public and agency comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed parallel runway at the St. Lucie County International Airport.

### **Thomas J. White Plaza Dedication Ceremony Set**

A dedication ceremony for the unveiling of the plaque in honor of Thomas J. White, Sr. at Tradition Field on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. St. Lucie County named the Plaza at Tradition Field after Mr. White and also named a road after him called "Thomas J. White Drive." Following the dedication ceremony, the New York Mets will host the Houston Astros at 1:10 p.m. For more information, contact Linette Trabulsy at (772) 462-1791.

### **Hurston Branch Library to Close for Renovations**

The Zora Neale Hurston Branch Library, 3008 Avenue D, will be closed from Monday, March 15 through Sunday, March 28 for interior maintenance work and exterior painting. The Library will have new telephone and data lines installed to meet the Cat5 hurricane standards. The circulation desk is also being replaced for better service. Library materials can be dropped off at any of the other four library branches during the time Hurston Branch is closed. For more information, call (772) 462-2154.

### **March at the Downtown Fort Pierce Library**

**Thursday, March 18, 1:30 p.m.** ~ Treasure Coast Writer's Guild Program ~ Guest speaker: Swanee Ballman of Jawbone Publishing, Kissimmee, Florida will discuss the mission of their company and submission guidelines.

**Saturday, March 20, 2:00 p.m. (1:30 p.m. reception)** ~ Florida Humanities Council presents: A program about Self-taught Artists with Gary Monroe, Daytona Beach Community College Visual Arts Professor, who will discuss various creative processes of outside and folk art and artists in Florida. Mr. Monroe is the successful nominator of the Highwaymen to the Florida Artists Hall of Fame.

**Saturday, March 27, 1:30 p.m.** ~ Young Adult Book Club ~ Special guest Florida Author: Carol Crowe who lived on a sailboat in the Caribbean for 14 years. Her experience with Hurricane Hugo was the inspiration for Waiting for Dolphins. Carol will also discuss writing techniques for young aspiring writers.

### **The St. Lucie County Library System Presents 2004 Book Fair**

The St. Lucie County Library System will host the 2004 Book Fair on Saturday, April 3, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Indian River Community College, St. Lucie West Campus, 500 NW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986, Rm. A125. National Authors: John McCollister, Jon Ward, Dirk Wyle, Christine Kling. Local Authors: Kate Birch, Jim Ernst, Sunny Serafino, Daren Lamb, Bob Morrissey, J. Stephen Brooks. Call (772) 462-2787 for more information.

## **Second Annual Art for Nature Reception and Live Auction Planned**

St. Lucie County is pleased to announce the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Art For Nature Spring Plein Air 2004, scheduled to be on display March 16 – April 3 at the A.E. Backus Gallery and Museum in downtown Fort Pierce. In partnership with St. Lucie County, the Backus Gallery and Museum has invited the Art For Nature Plein Art artists to take part in the gallery's "Tread Lightly" exhibition. The grand opening reception and live auction of the donated paintings will be held March 19 at 7:00 p.m. All proceeds will benefit St. Lucie County's Environmentally Sensitive Lands program, which is dedicated to protecting and preserving pristine landscapes for future generations.

Art For Nature events are fundraisers for the St. Lucie County Environmentally Significant Lands (ESL) program. Art For Nature's mission is to foster an appreciation and understanding of Florida's diverse landscapes and wildlife and to promote the conservation and preservation of natural areas in St. Lucie County. Participating artists and purchasers of artwork help to protect St. Lucie County's native landscapes and wildlife. For more information please contact Diana Waite at (772) 462-1577 or visit [www.artfornature.com](http://www.artfornature.com).

## **March Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center**

**Guided Hike ~ March 20 & 27** at 10:00 a.m. ~ *Join an Oxbow naturalist for an interpretive hike along Oxbow's trails.*

**Canoe and Kayak River Tour ~ March 20** at 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. ~ *Explore the North Fork of the St. Lucie River by canoe or kayak. An Oxbow naturalist will be your guide on this relaxing tour. \$10 fee per person.*

**Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series ~ March 26** at noon ~ *Jim Egan of the Marine Resources Council will present: Water Quality in the Indian River Lagoon.*

**Eco-Friday Night Hikes ~ March 26** at 6:30-8:30 p.m. ~ *Follow your sense of adventure to Oxbow for a season of owl prowls, bat programs & amphibian adventures! Free!*

## **Invasive Plant Management Short Course Scheduled**

The University of Florida/St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension office, in conjunction with the University of Florida Indian River Research and Education Center, will be conducting the 2004 Invasive Plant Management Short Course on March 24, 2004. This short course will be conducted at the St. Lucie County Extension office, located at 8400 Picos Road in Fort Pierce, from 8:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m. The main objectives of this program are to teach landscapers, land managers pesticide applicators and other interested members of the public how to control invasive plant species. Pre-registration is required for this course and there is a \$25 registration fee. For additional information, call Ken Gioeli at the St. Lucie County Extension office at (772) 462-1660.

## **Solid Waste Division Receives Approval of Treasure Coast Regional Wastewater Sludge Management Facility**

The Board of County Commissioners approved the Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc. (CDM) proposal for the Treasure Coast Regional Wastewater Sludge Management Facility. The proposal, dated March 1, 2004, will be for Phases II, III, and IV of the facility and includes preliminary design, permit applications preparation and submission, pursuit of grant funding, inter-local agreement negotiation and initiation of project funding for a lump sum of \$1,126,040. The estimated completion date of this proposal is April 2006. The facility has letters of interest from Martin County, Indian River County, Town of Jupiter Island, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, City of Stuart, City of Port St. Lucie and the City of Vero Beach. The purpose of the facility is to dewater sludge and pelletize the cake for a usable end product of the wastewater treatment process in lieu of the current land application practice.

## **Parks & Recreation Events**

**Touch-a-Truck Event** ~ All children and parents are invited to come out to this program to touch, explore and experience different types of transportation. Vehicles from the Police Department, Fire Department and Parks Department will be on display. This program will give children exposure to some large and unusual vehicles and the people who operate them. Wednesday, March 17, 2004, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Maravilla Park & Recreation Center. For information call 462-1522.

**"Viva Las Vegas,"** Tuesday, March 23, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Fort Pierce Community Center, \$6/per person, Price includes lunch, games and more. Call Rick Selner at 462-1792 for more information.

John Bruhn, District 1 • Doug Coward, District 2 • Paula A. Lewis, District 3 • Frannie Hutchinson, District 4 • Cliff Barnes, District 5

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